THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED); (a) Government are aware of press reports regarding remarks made by the US Consul General in Calcutta during an address 10 the Bengal National Chamber of Com-merce and Industry on June 3, 1994. Government have noted the clarification issued by the US Consul General in Calcutta on June 6, 1994 stating that he 'categorically did not criticise the Government of West Bengal or any of its officials".

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Doe$_s$ not arise.

Diplomatic personnel in US and Indian Embassies

1129. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of diplomatic personnel as on June 30, 1994 the United States of America ha$_s$ been permitted to maintain its embassy and consulates, and "whether this number exceeds the number of personnel our embassy and consular officer$_s$ are permitted to maintain the United States;

(b) what is the number of Indian personnel recruited locally who are employed by the US embassy and consular offices; and

(c) whether the terms and conditions of such locally recruited personnel are subject to Indian labour laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) 136. Yes, Sir.

(b) 726.

(c) Under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961 Diplomatic Missions are expected to respect the local law$_s$ and regulations of the host country. In 1975, and subsequently in 1988 all foreign diplomatic mission$_s$ in India were provided with a copy of a Model Contract which contained the terms and conditions of employment which the diplomatic missions might enter into with their Indian employees in order to ensure that both sides were aware of their rights and obligations. However,, the terms and conditions mentioned in the Model Contract are suggestive in nature and the Missions are at liberty to offer enhanced benefits if they do desire.

Discontent in the ICCR

1130. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PI-LLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing discontent in the Indian Council for Cultural Relations; and

(b) whether any move to set right the situation has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN Tilli MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

विदेशों में सांस्कृतिक-केन्द्रों की स्थापना

1131. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत-सरकार ने विदेशों में किन-किन स्थानों पर सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र खोले हैं और सरकार किन-किन देशों में नए सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र खोलने का विचार रखती है ;

(ख) विदेशों में किन-किन स्थानों पर हिन्दी-परीक्षायें आयोजित की जा रही हैं और भारत सरकार ने किन-किन स्थानों पर हिन्दी के अध्यापन हेतु प्राध्यापक भेजे हैं ;

(ग) विदेशों में हिन्दी-प्राध्यापकों के ऐसे कितने पद रिक्त थे जिन्हें भरा जाना था, परन्तु उन्हें अभी तक नहीं भरा गया है और ऐसे पद कब से रिक्त हैं; और

(घ) सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?